

106023

June 11, 1962

Mr. J. L. Murray  
Sales Engineering  
Humble Oil and Refining Company  
P. O. Box 2180  
Houston 1, Texas

Dear John:

Since the time of my call at your New York Office, a little more than a year ago, the following conclusions have been made regarding our problem with disposal of anionic detergents at our Plainville Plant:

1. Your product, ACTO 636 Petroleum Sulfonate, gives ABS activity when analyzed by either the methylene blue or methyl green method.
2. Neither of these methods can distinguish between true ABS and ACTO 636.
3. Infrared spectral analysis of a standard ABS sample, of ACTO 636 and of material extracted from HRC well water indicated ABS as such is not present in the well water.

These results have raised some question on which I would like to have your comments.

1. Can you obtain any information regarding the comparative effect of soil bacteria on ABS and ACTO petroleum sulfonate?
2. Can suitable soluble oil emulsifiers be formulated which will not give positive ABS activity?
3. Is there any practical means of chemically treating plant waste waters to structurally alter the petroleum sulfonate so as to eliminate the ABS activity?

Any information you can supply regarding the above questions will be greatly appreciated.

AR200120

Sincerely yours,

Jack H. Gustafson  
Senior Research Engineer